COURSE DESCRIPTION:
What does it mean to be a pastor? What is my role in the church? How do I measure my effectiveness? What authority—and what kind of authority—do I have as a pastor? Those questions and more will be addressed as we explore the subject of pastoral theology and how that theology takes shape in the context of local congregations. With the help of those who have gone before us, we will address our identity as pastors and the primary components of pastoral ministry with a goal of preparing students for effective pastoral ministry to the local church.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:
Leaders who enter pastoral ministry without a pastoral theology are destined to serve the whims of the congregation and the exigencies of the times. This course helps students develop pastoral theologies to serve as guides for future ministry. The course equips students with the theological framework within which to serve Christ and the Church as a pastor. Students will work through several significant resources and do so in chronological order. Students will begin with the apostle Paul, then move on to the Church Fathers, Gregory the Great, the Protestant Reformers, the Puritans, the Confessionalists, and one representative of the 20th century. Finally, each student will develop a vision frame for pastoral ministry in the 21st century.

COURSE EVALUATION FOR MASTER OF DIVINITY AND MA STUDENTS:

1. Class Attendance/Participation (20%) - Seminary study, by design, embraces collegiality as a rich resource of personal growth. Class time will be filled by lectures, discussion, and presentations. Students should not anticipate more than one excused absence.

2. Five Writing Assignments (50%) – Students shall complete five writing assignments. Each assignment is weighted at 10% of your course grade. The due dates are posted on the “Course Schedule.” They shall be submitted through Turnitin on the course Moodle site.
   a. Write a 600 word blog on an insight gained from our reading of Thompson.
   b. Complete a book review of “On the Priesthood” by Chrysostom. This syllabus includes an outline that shall be used for the review.
c. Write a one page article for your church newsletter on an insight gleaned from Gregory the Great’s *Pastoral Rule*.

d. Compile a 3 page journal while reading Richard Baxter’s *Reformed Pastor*. In this journal, record new insights and fresh challenges, subjects for further study and questions you have for the author.

e. Imagine that you are leading a book club reading of Nevin’s *Lectures on Pastoral Theology*. Prepare a series of discussion questions on the “Introduction” (by Sam Hamstra).

3. Final Paper (30%) – Each student shall prepare a Vision Frame for pastoral ministry in which the student describes the basic tenets of a pastoral theology for ministry within his or her theological tradition. OR the student may write a 10-15 pages research paper on the pastoral theology for ministry within his or her theological tradition. **DUE: March 19.**

**Writing Assignments & Lesson Plans: Here is the rubric by which assignments are graded:**

Focus: Is the writing unified around a central, significant idea?

Argument: Given the audience, are the arguments persuasive?

Clarity: Is the writing clearly organized? Is the central idea or thesis developed with clear progression?

Contents: Are the ideas of others correctly understood or superficially engaged?

Style: Do grammar, sentence structure, paragraphing, and transitions contribute to the clarity of the writing?

**Late Work:** Students are encouraged to submit their work in a timely manner. Written assignments, but not on-line quizzes, will be accepted after their due dates but be subject to a full-grade reduction.

**GRADING SCALE:**

- A = 100-95
- A- = 94-90
- B+ = 89-87
- B = 86-83
- B- = 82-80
- C+ = 79-77
- C = 76-73
- C- = 72-70
- D+ = 69-67
- D = 66-63
- D- = 62-60
- F = 59 and below
REQUIRED READING LIST:

Baxter, Richard, *The Reformed Pastor*. (Common Domain: any version of this classic work written in 1656.)


COURSE & READING SCHEDULE

Week 1  Introduction to Class

Week 2  Theme: Paul and the Pastoral Ministry  
Required Reading: Thompson

Week 3  Theme: The Patristics and the Pastoral Ministry  
Required Reading: Chrysostom

Week 4  Theme: The Roman/Orthodox and the Pastoral Ministry  
Required Reading: Gregory the Great

Week 5  Theme: Reformation and the Pastoral Ministry

Week 6  Theme: 17th Century Puritans and the Pastoral Ministry  
Required Reading: Richard Baxter

Week 7  Theme: Nineteenth Century America and the Pastoral Ministry  
Required Reading: Hamstra
Week 8  Theme: 20th Century America and the Pastoral Ministry  
Required Reading: Dawn

Week 9  Theme: 21st Century and Your Pastoral Ministry

Week 10 Theme: 21st Century and Your Pastoral Ministry

POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. 
Contact ithelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

**Diploma/Certificate Student Course Requirements**
The amount of work required of Diploma/Certificate students will be at the discretion of the professor. Students will be responsible for contacting the professor about what assignments are required.

**Class Attendance Policy**
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

**Class Tardiness Policy**
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

**Late Work Policy**
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.
**Turabian Format**
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., 2013.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Electronic Format**
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

**Technology Use in the Classroom**
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.

**Course Evaluation in Moodle**
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.seminary.edu](http://moodle.seminary.edu) in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week starting the last day of the term. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.